

City-County Uniform Code of Building Urged by Yorty

Conflicting provisions in the city and county of Los Angeles building codes must be eliminated by a uniform code, Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty told the county board of supervisors.

Code unification has been urged as a means of saving homebuyers money. A uniform code would mean that builders in this area would not be constantly faced with conflicting code requirements which act to pyramid building costs at the expense of the eventual purchaser of new homes.

"I am sure the city and county can agree on acceptable identical requirements and end this confusion," the Mayor said.

In a message to the board of supervisors, the Mayor points out that a citizen's committee report has been available for several months on the proposal to unify codes.

Nothing more can be done now, he added, until the County legislative body indicates its agreement to cooperate.

The Mayor's program to overhaul the city's building code and bring it into uniformity with the county's code was initiated with the appointment of a citizens' committee in November, 1961.

It included representatives of the American Institute of Architects, the Society of Civil Engineers, structural engineers, and consulting engineers in the Los Angeles area. After eight months of study, the committee recommended that a uniform performance type code be established under the direction of a joint city-county commission.

In its report, the committee stated, "When each jurisdiction has its own code and its own interpretation

of this so-called uniform code, it is difficult for the industry to adjust to each of these interpretations. Construction costs are increased by continuing effort to keep abreast of these many codes. Some areas have codes which are also more restrictive, which in turn increases the cost of building and adds to the confusion."

The committee concluded, "To resolve this problem, there should be a return to the fundamentals of performance requirements which should be judged by competitive professionals in accordance with recognized national standards for health and safety."

The Mayor said he feels these objectives can be reached only through a joint city-county approach and pledged his city's cooperation with whom ever the county chooses to designate to work out the details of the program before it is submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the City Council for consideration.

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